



**Richard
Fast**

HE SAID,



**Jean
Greeson**

SHE SAID

On tassels and rings and drapery things

Editor's note: Greeson and Fast's response to the last column's question about window treatments continues.

Jean: Remember, two of the biggest questions to answer when considering window treatments concern sun control and privacy. But if those issues are resolved with shades or blinds, then you might consider simply framing the window with fabric to bring pattern and color into the room...

Richard: Well, not only does it add visual interest, fabric can also help with acoustics and even soften a stark room environment.

Jean: As I was saying, framing the window with fabric can also make a room friendlier and homier. One of the best ways to install this style of drapery is to use a decorative wood or metal rod and some rings, pinning the rings to pleats (my favorite pleat style is the butterfly) and allowing the panels to hang on either side of the window. On the inside of the opening, bring in each drape to the edge of the glass. Use 1.5 to 3 widths of the fabric on either side for stationary panels. If you plan to close them, the width needs to be from 2.5 to 3 times the length of the rod.

Richard: And if you want to close the drapes with a cord...

Jean: Oh, yes! You can also use a decorative traverse rod to open and close the drapes with a pull cord.

Richard: May I say something? It's about drapes...

Jean: Of course, silly.

Richard: I think drapes with valances create a dressier look — at least a more formal look. You can dress the window treatments up with banding or fringe, either along the bottom of the valance or along the inside and/or bottom edge of the drapes. Adding tassels, contrasting cord, banding or tie-backs can also enhance the appearance. Also, when you have a valance you can use a less expensive white traverse rod because it won't show. And believe it or not, this can also be masculine and contemporary.

Jean: Sheer genius. And speaking of sheers, they can add additional adornment and semi-privacy, and you could use them in place of shades. They can also provide some additional sound absorption. I usually make sheers 2 to 2.5 times the window width for fullness. And they look even more elegant with a double 10-inch hem.

Richard: Here's one more suggestion. Rather than conventional shades, blinds, or sheers, consider balloon or Roman shades. They look rich, too, and can add an amazing finishing touch to the window dressing ... or be a window treatment by themselves. One caution — these fancier shades might need adjusting each time you raise or lower them. I would hang them just inside the window frame for the sleekest, most custom look. A good window treatment is your chance to dress up the view, outside or in.

These are the opinions of nationally recognized interior design team Jean Greeson and Richard Fast, who offer advice and services from their studio in Asheville's River Arts District at 352 Depot St. Greeson & Fast Design can be reached at 252-0400 or www.GreesonAndFast.com.